

# Constructivist Media Decoding STARTER KIT

for US History & Government 9-12

WHAT IS CMD?

## Constructivist Media Decoding (CMD)



is a **core content inquiry-based teaching method** where **ALL students** at **all levels** develop **habits of questioning** through **media analysis**.

WHY CMD?

### THIS APPROACH IS

**inquiry-based**    **student-centered**    **curriculum-driven**

AND teaches core subject-area standards  
develops habits of critical thinking  
builds student agency  
engages all students

WHAT IS IN THIS KIT?

This kit gives you the **resources and steps** you need to begin **integrating Constructivist Media Decoding** into your work with students.



HOW TO GET STARTED?

## WATCH:

- ▶ [Constructivist Media Decoding - Why and How?](#) (2 min)
- ▶ [The Impact of CMD - Student Voices](#) (1 min)
- ▶ [Project Look Sharp Free Resources for CMD](#) (2 min)
- ▶ [Watch a Short CMD Demonstration Video](#)

PLAN A CMD

## STEP 1: Brainstorm upcoming CMD opportunities



What content will my students be learning?  
What media can target my curricular goals?  
And be engaging for all my students?  
What content and media literacy questions should I ask?

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## STEP 2: Review the Tips for Decoding:

- Preparing for a decoding
- Leading a decoding
- Cautions



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## STEP 3: Select a Lesson



Search Project Look Sharp's website, e.g.,

US History & Government 9-12

To narrow your search, add a **Keyword** or **FILTER** by *Subject, Media Type, Duration, etc.*

OR

Still not sure? Choose one of the lessons below:



[Thanksgiving: Who's Telling the Story?](#)



[Roots of Democracy in the US: Iroquois or Athens](#)

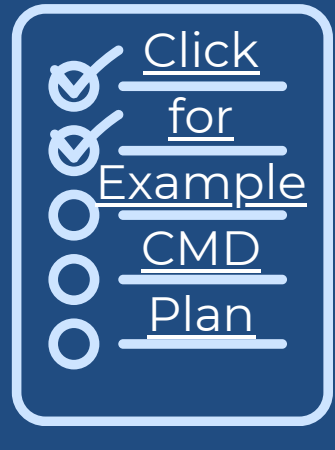


[America: Through Music Videos](#)

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## STEP 4: Plan Your Lesson

- What are your objectives?
- What questions can you ask students to meet your lesson's objectives?
- What follow up questions will
  - ➔ deepen student thinking?
  - ➔ help them teach each other?
- What background knowledge do your students need for the decoding?
- Will your media documents be accessible to all students?



LEAD A CMD

## STEP 5: Teach Your Media Decoding Lesson!



After the lesson, **REFLECT**:

What was successful?

What was challenging?

Use the Self-evaluation Checklist

NEXT STEPS

Find more CMD lessons at



or use our DIY guide to create your own!

